

Amended Claims – August 2011

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A method for removing pigments from a pigmented section of skin, comprising:

- a) puncturing the skin at said pigmented section with a skin-puncturing device provided with at least one needle, thereby liberating pigments and cellular fluids from within cells containing said pigments; and
- b) bandaging said punctured skin with a pad adapted to absorb said pigments and said cellular fluids, said pad containing one or more materials capable of accelerating a process of migration of said pigments toward an outer layer of the skin, wherein said one or more materials is a salt-based granular paste.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising applying one or more antiseptic materials to the punctured skin.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the punctured skin is bandaged with a pad containing one or more antiseptic materials.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the skin puncturing device is a tattooing device.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one needle attached to the skin-puncturing device is solid.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the skin-puncturing device is further provided with suction means.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, further comprising, prior to the bandaging of the punctured skin and during the puncturing of said skin, performing suction of the pigments and cellular fluids from said punctured skin with the suction means.

Claim 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the salt- based granular paste contains saline.

Claim 10. (Cancelled)

Claim 11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising injecting an aqueous solution into the pigmented section ~~prior to or~~ during the puncturing of the skin.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising applying at least one antibiotic material to the punctured skin.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising including at least one antibiotic material for treating the skin in said pad.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claim 1~~claim 9, wherein said one or more materials in said pad are capable of absorbing at least five grams of an aqueous mixture containing tattoo ink and cellular debris per ten square centimeters of area of said pad in a time period of less than twenty minutes.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one needle attached to said skin-puncturing device is hollow.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, further comprising coupling a means for providing suction to said hollow needle.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, further comprising, prior to the bandaging of the punctured skin and during the puncturing of said skin, performing suction of the pigments and cellular fluids from said punctured skin with said means for providing suction.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein said tattooing device does not include ink for injection into the skin.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising removing the pad prior to damaging the skin ~~wherein the removing occurs in a time period of less than twenty minutes.~~

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising removing the pad prior to complete saturation of the pad.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising covering the pad with a dressing.

Claim 25. (Cancelled)

Claim 26. (Cancelled)

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: removing the pad after at least some of said pigments and cellular fluids are absorbed; and applying antibiotic materials to the punctured skin after removing the pad.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) A method for removing pigments from a pigmented section of skin, comprising:

- a) puncturing skin at said pigmented section with a skin-puncturing device provided with at least one needle, thereby liberating pigments and cellular fluids from within cells containing said pigments;

- b) providing a pad adapted to absorb the pigments and cellular fluids liberated by the puncturing, said pad containing one or more materials capable of accelerating a process of migration of said pigments toward an outer layer of the skin, wherein said one or more materials is a salt-based granular paste; and
- c) bandaging a surface of said punctured skin by placing the pad in direct contact with the surface of the punctured skin such that the one or more materials contained in the pad have direct contact with the surface of the punctured skin but remain contained within the pad.

Claim 29. (Cancelled)

Claim 30. (Cancelled)

Claim 31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 28, further comprising injecting an aqueous solution into the pigmented section ~~before or~~ during the puncturing of the skin.

Claim 32. (Cancelled)